

Circuit

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Blue Sky brings more greening

It's no secret that BPA has been a leader for many years in promoting new environment friendly power sources. But BPA will also soon become a leading commercial user of green power.

This summer BPA signed a contract with Pacific Power to buy green power under its Blue Sky program. BPA's headquarters will use 46,000 kilowatt-hours of wind energy per month. That comes to 552 megawatts per year.

BPA will pay \$26,200 per year for the green power – 47.5 mills per kWh. Pacific Power will use the revenues from its Blue Sky sales to build new wind energy projects.

The purchase helps BPA meet a new Department of Energy mandate. In April DOE directed its agencies to buy renewable resources to meet some of their power needs. BPA will get about 5 percent of its headquarters energy from Blue Sky.

Administrator Judi Johansen and PacifiCorp CEO Alan Richardson sealed the deal at a public event on Aug. 3. They signed a larger-than-life contract before a downtown lunchtime audience at Pioneer Courthouse Square.

PacifiCorp owns Pacific Power and hosted the event. It included entertainment, windmill models, information booths with handouts, and free blue snow cones and soft drinks. Frisbee-catching dogs performed and a Dixieland quartet played. Richardson made the most bubbles in a fun contest among speakers.

Richardson complimented BPA for being a leader and "for making a difference." He gave BPA Pacific's Visionary Level award. He said Blue Sky has been a success since it was launched. In the first four months, more than 1,000



home and business customers signed up to buy more than 3 million kWh of wind power per year. Pacific Power sells the Blue Sky power in blocks of 100 kWh at \$4.75 per month.

Richardson said the environmental benefit of that equates to 4.5 million miles of reduced car driving, or to planting 825 acres of trees.

Johansen said BPA's Blue Sky buy shows "our commitment to the environment." She urged other businesses to support the development of wind power and other green resources. "We challenge others to commit to purchasing renewable energy," she said. And she urged other utilities to create programs like Blue Sky to offer new clean energy to their customers.

Other speakers complimented BPA for its green efforts. They included Congressman Earl Blumenauer, Multnomah County Commission chair Bev Stein, Renewable Northwest Project director Rachel Shimshak and Bonneville Environmental Foundation head Angus Duncan.



Clear skies prevailed at Portland's Pioneer Courthouse Square for an Aug. 2 renewable energy event. (Top) Administrator Judi Johansen signs a Blue Sky contract as PacifiCorp CEO Alan Richardson waits his turn to sign. (Bottom right) Richardson made the most bubbles in a fun contest with other dignitaries and a downtown lunchtime crowd enjoyed the program, entertainment and free refreshments.

Photos by Jack Odgaard

About 300 BPA employees turned out in mid-September for a "survivor" barbecue at Portland. BPA events coordinator Cheri Larson said it brought people together to celebrate the end of a long summer.

"We wanted to acknowledge people who helped BPA get through so many high profile and stressful things the past few months," Larson said. So her team came up with an idea for a theme based on the recent "Survivor" TV program.

Buster's Bar-B-Que served the lunch, and folks signed up for the event. The outdoor event was held in the headquarters cul-de-sac park. Signs in the flagpole island made light-hearted fun of some of BPA's big challenges of the year.

Administrator Judi Johansen thanked employees for their hard work. An ad hoc group, the BPA Rappers, provided the entertainment. They put the recent work and successes to rap music and a little dance – to the laughter of many folks, and some chagrin of others.

Earlier, Johansen had thanked BPA workers for their work through a number of tough issues since last spring. The Aug. 8 *BPA This Week* carried a hand-written message on its cover from the administrator. "We have had an extraordinary few weeks and I want to thank you all for your continued exemplary performance," she wrote.

During the late spring through summer, BPA got its new computer Business Solutions Project up and running. BPA modified its subscription

BBQ wraps up a "long" summer



Employees enjoyed a summer wrap-up barbecue fling at headquarters. RIF and the Early Outs played swing music, the BPA Rappers entertained and executives said thanks for all the hard work of the year.

Photos by Paul Hansen

program in the wake of wild and unpredictable energy markets. Transmission and other groups finished the groundwork for the regional transmission organization – to be known as RTO West.

And BPA helped keep the lights on in the NW and California during extreme hot weather and energy shortages. So it was a pretty good summer after all, and a good reason to celebrate at that.

Good work, everyone at BPA!



Mystery profile – Is this guy looking for skeletons in a BPA closet? Who is he and what's he up to? See page 2 to find out.

Photo by Taro O'Sullivan



The tall window frames cast patterns inside the Celilo Converter Station at The Dalles. See the back page for more photos from the 30th anniversary open house in August.

Photo by Jack Odgaard

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